



Mission: To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement.

# INTERCOM

## Social Investment News

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### **Dr. Linder Goes to College**

Two highly prestigious Universities, Notre Dame in Indiana and Columbia in New York, invited Msgr. William J. Linder, Ph.D. to share his knowledge and expertise. Despite a very fast-paced schedule, he accepted.

As an instructor of a four-week, short course at Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, Msgr. Linder gave his graduate students highlights on NCC and an overview of the whole Community Development Corporation (CDC) movement. He discussed healthcare, community banking, education, and economic strategies.

Msgr. Linder also made clear that the difference between the CDC movement and other non-profits is that "it deals much more with the issue of self-reliance and the participation of people. It's much more comprehensive. It's community neighborhood types of things, instead of individuals ones."

According to one of Linder's students— "he offered some very practical advice on the financial and political aspects of running a community development corporation."

In June 2001, Msgr. Linder heads to Indiana for Notre Dame University's four-day Pastoral Liturgy Conference entitled "Liturgy and Justice; To worship God in Spirit and Truth". In his presentation, Msgr. will elaborate on his particular topic, *Rehearsing the Reign of God by Building Just Communities*. Msgr. Linder feels strongly that the liturgy celebrates God's justice and summons us to work for social renewal – to rebuild lives and create just communities.

### **MSGR. LINDER GOES TO WASHINGTON**

In January Msgr. Linder was among those invited by President Bush to discuss his new **White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives**. Bush intends to "work with faith-based organizations to address social ills". He noted that "faith-based groups have a long history of doing things with a little amount of money."

Many religious leaders, including Msgr. Linder, are cautiously optimistic that the new government office will reach its goals to "enlist, enable, empower, and expand the work of faith-based and other community organizations."



# A Gallery of NCC Services



**Housing:** [above left] The King Family are the proud owners of a new home in the Community Hills development.

**Job training:** [above right] The Gateway to Work program prepares former Welfare recipients for supermarket careers with Shoprite stores.

**Health Care:** [below] Seniors attending the four Medical Day Care programs receive regular blood pressure screenings.

**Education:** [bottom] The New Horizons Charter School Kindergarten class experience alternative education in a bright new building.





## **MEDICAL DAY CARE I**

Joseph Cooper is a 46 year old survivor. He was born and went to school through 10<sup>th</sup> grade in Newark. Without a high school diploma, good paying jobs were not available to him. However, Joseph did find employment in a deli where he started as janitor and later became short order cook. Still later, Joseph found work in a factory loading iron on trucks.

En route home from work, Joseph was mugged. He was kicked in the eye, which blinded him. His other eye has blurred vision from birth. Joseph lost his job and became homeless. He lived in the Rotunda at Penn Station, the streets, and a variety of shelters in winter.

He was noticed by Raymond Fawole, Medical Day Care I director, during one of his shelter stops. With encouragement and gentle prodding from Raymond, Joseph made radical life changes. He now receives SSI and lives in his own basement apartment, which is owned by a generous-hearted landlord.

Joseph has been coming to the Medical Day Care Program for four years. He loves every minute of it. Despite an ulcerated leg and intermittent seizures, Joseph is a happy man. He is grateful to NCC for giving him purpose in life and for introducing him to his girlfriend.

## **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Mr. Mace has been a resident of New Community Gardens Senior since 1987. He was born and raised in North Carolina. A kind and quiet person, he enjoys giving his time to other residents and friends. Every morning, he comes to the Social Services office with a smile and his usual greeting, "Good Morning. Do you need any help?"

Mr. Mace has given years of service to the Social Service Department especially by driving the NCC Medical Van. He is a caring person with a very positive attitude. He looks after everyone who comes to him asking for advice or help. He never looks for praise or thanks. May God bless him.

## **SOCIAL INVESTMENT**

Without your help, NCC would have fewer services and success stories.  
We continue to need your help

- to insure the opening of Medical Day Care V – so sorely needed and appreciated by seniors
- to complete the early learning center in our newest housing project, New Community Hills.

Also, we need your prayers for a myriad number of concerns that come with the never-ending needs of so many inner-city residents.

Remember, we still offer an 8% return on your investment.



# *Gloria Chambers*

In 1984 Gloria Chambers was welcomed by the NCC Home Friends Program as a caregiver. Within a year she became the coordinator of the program. She then moved on to become Congregate Housing Service coordinator.

Gloria, determined and ambitious, moved on to coordinate the Ryan White Program (help for people suffering from AIDS). Presently she is Site Manager for the Social Service Program which includes social work activity as well as overseeing all the programs in the Social Service Department.

Ms. Chambers has been "upward bound" with a sincere concern about others for all of her life. She came from a family of very "good Samaritans." Her father, a minister, brought his sick and destitute elderly parishioners into his own home on a regular basis. Reverend Chambers intended for these people to die with dignity. Gloria and her three brothers learned at a young age to share their home and their hearts.

Her independent parents are now aging and in ill-health. Gloria visits nightly to ensure that they have eaten well and are still able to care for themselves. She cares for her elderly parents and her clients in full measure – people are important to her. This includes children whom she teaches every Sunday after directing her church choir. On Monday nights Gloria practices with the NCC Gospel Choir, which she also directs. She has very little time left over for Gloria but she is a content and happy woman.

While she was born in North Carolina, Gloria has lived in Newark since she was three years old. She attended Newark Public Schools including Weequahic H.S. During her working years, Gloria managed a BA in Sociology from Union College as well as certification in Social Work, Business Administration, and Computer. She has taken numerous classes and workshops in areas of concern for social workers, i.e., Alzheimer disease, Elderly Abuse, Parkinson's disease, and Confusion/Depression Among the Aged.

Gloria has raised two children, Richard, 22 and Tahisha, 24 in the manner in which she was raised. They make their weekends available to help with chores for their grandparents. Indeed, Gloria Chambers, with her excellent communication skills translating into the ability to deal effectively with clients and associates, is a real asset to NCC.

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